

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 8 and 9 and ADD new claim 10 in accordance with the following:

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1. (currently amended) A storage device for maintaining information, which is accessed by a host device through a host interface, when power is OFF and being capable of executing a test process based on test signals, comprising:

- a test terminal inputting the test signals;
- an instruction part sending a read out instruction for instructing a memory storing secret data to read out data;
- a decoding part decoding whether or not the data read out by the memory in response to the data reading instruction is the secret data stored in the memory;
- a maintaining part maintaining information in a volatile state resulting from the decoding part; and
- a cutting-off part cutting off the test signals input from the test terminal when the maintaining part maintains information indicating that the secret data is stored.

2. (original) The storage device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said read out instruction sent by said instruction part is a secret data read out instruction for instructing the memory storing secret data to read out the secret data.

3. (original) The storage device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said read out instruction sent by said instruction part is a data read out instruction for instructing the memory storing secret data to read out all data stored in the memory other than working data.

4. (original) The storage device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said read out instruction sent by said instruction part is a data read out instruction for instructing the memory storing secret data to read out data indicating a presence of the secret data stored in an area that is not for the secret data.

5. (original) The storage device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said instruction part sends the read out instruction when the power is ON.

6. (original) The storage device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said instruction part sends the read out instruction when the memory is reset.

7. (original) The storage device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said instruction part sends the read out instruction when a command for operating secret data is made.

a<sup>3</sup> 8. (currently amended) A storage device for maintaining information, which is accessed by a host device through a host interface, when power is OFF and being capable of executing a test process based on test signals, comprising:

a decoding part gathering a set of data read out by a memory storing secret data in response to an access request and decoding based on the set of data whether or not the secret data is stored.

a maintaining part maintaining information in a volatile state resulting from the decoding part; and

a cutting-off part cutting off the test signals input from a test terminal when the maintaining part maintains information indicating that the secret data is stored.

9. (currently amended) A storage device for maintaining information, which is accessed by a host device through a host interface, when power is OFF and being capable of executing a test process based on test signals, comprising:

a maintaining part maintaining, in a volatile state, information indicating that an access request is conducted to a memory storing secret data; and

a cutting-off part cutting off the test signals input from a test terminal when the maintaining part maintains the information indicating that the access request is conducted to the memory storing secret data.

10. (new) A storage device for non-volatile storage of information and which executes a test process, the storage device communicating with a host via a host interface, the storage device comprising:

a<sup>3</sup> a test terminal which receives at least one test signal to read out data;

a maintaining part which maintains information about the data in a volatile state;

a cutting-off part which cuts off the test signal from the test terminal when the maintaining part maintains information indicating that the data includes secret data.

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